

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL722889171US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation-in-Part Application Of:

Applicants: William M. Sugden, et al.
Serial No.: 08/968,239
Filed: November 12, 1997
For: INHIBITION OF VIRAL GENE ACTIVITIES
Group Art Unit: 1648
Examiner: U. Winkler

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified case, please
cancel all claims and insert the following new claims:

15. (New Claim) A method of screening viral
replication inhibitors and viral transcription inhibitors
comprising:

(a) adding a candidate molecule to a mammalian
cell culture;

(b) providing a control mammalian cell culture
without the candidate molecule, wherein the cell cultures
of both (a) and (b) comprise viral looping/linking
factors and nucleic acid molecules comprising at least
two binding sites for the factors, whereby an operable
factor will link the sites;

(c) allowing said candidate molecule to
interact with the viral looping/linking factor present in
the mammalian cell culture of step (a); and

(d) analyzing the factor for inhibition by the
candidate molecule and comparing the result to the

Sub B1

a.